REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action having a notification date of May 20, 2008. Each of the independent claims includes a limitation that is not disclosed by or made obvious in view of the prior art.

As Applicant has stated in the prior Amendment, L. Blunk & J. Vollbrecht <u>does not discuss link establishment</u>. See, for example, L. Blunk & J. Vollbrecht, at Page 2, Section 1, "This document defines the PPP Extensible Authentication Protocol (EAP). The <u>Link Establishment</u> and Authentication phases, and the Authentication-Protocol Configuration Option, are defined in The Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) [1]." (underlining added).

This reference [1] in L. Blunk & J. Vollbrecht is a separate paper, called RFC 1661, by W. Simpson which is provided in an IDS with this Amendment and which states at Page 8, Section 3.5, "Authentication SHOULD take place as soon as possible <u>after link establishment</u>." (underlining added). So this prior art clearly teaches that authentication takes place <u>after</u> link establishment and not <u>during</u> link establishment as recited in the present claims. If a phone call would help to clarify these facts the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below phone number.

Note that just because a standard is in widespread use does not mean that modifications or improvements to the standard are "obvious." To the contrary, when the standard <u>teaches away</u> from the claimed invention that is evidence of non-obviousness. Also provided as evidence of non-obviousness is the fact that the standard is in widespread use and has been for a long time (parts of it over a decade) without any disclosure of the invention as recited in the claims. The claimed invention has distinct advantages as described in the specification.

Finally, the Simpson reference (RFC 1661) seems to preclude certain embodiments of the invention by stating "the Configuration Options in a Configure-Ack MUST exactly match those of the last transmitted Configure-Request." Page 29, Section 5.2. Thus, it would be a violation of this standard to create "an authentication session request in a standard response to the request to establish the TCP connection" as recited in the claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly sought. The undersigned may be contacted at the telephone number below at the Examiner's convenience if it would help in the prosecution of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: <u>September 20, 2008</u>

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